

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
SERIAL NUMBER 09/437,246  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q56708

Sub  
E37  
6. (Three Times Amended) An ink cartridge for a printing apparatus providing ink to a print head through an ink supply needle and removably attached to the print head, comprising:

- an ink chamber for containing ink;
- an ink supply port for supplying ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus, said ink supply port comprising an external opening;
- a packing member provided in said ink supply port, forming an ink channel for allowing a flow of ink, said packing member sealing the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus by fitting therewith, said packing member comprising a hole and a protruding rim surrounding said hole; and
- a valve device contained in said ink supply port, closing said ink channel by elastically abutting against said protruding rim of said packing member, said valve device selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle;

wherein said abutting of said valve device against only an upper part of said protruding rim performs said closing of said ink channel.